

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the objections to the disclosure and to claim 1, in view of the above corrective amendments thereto.

Applicant also respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the obviousness-type double-patenting rejections of claims 1-3, 6, 4 and 7, in view of the concurrently filed Terminal Disclaimer which removes Schwanz '917 as a reference. (If the Examiner, in fact, meant to include claim 5 in the double-patenting rejection in the Office Action at page 3, paragraph 4, then this Terminal Disclaimer also is effective against a double-patenting rejection of claim 5).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable (obvious) over various combinations of Schwanz '334, Waldmann '171, Chen '174, Nelson '177 and Kuentler '548 because, as will be explained below, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has not made out a *prima facie* showing of obviousness of the subject matter of any one of these claims 1-7.

More specifically, and contrary to the Examiner's statement on page 7, paragraph 8, of the Office Action, the reference numeral 24 in Fig. 2 of Schwanz '334 does **not** denote a reflector being a separate body or even a reflective coating on the rear side of the light exit lens 9.

As can readily be seen from column 4, line 7, reference numeral 24 in Schwanz '334 denotes only the inside surface 24 of a light exit lens 9 which is made of a transparent glass or plastic material and guides light emitted by light source 14 in the longitudinal direction to the narrow end edge 20 on the opposite side.

The reflectiveness of inside surface 24 is obtained by providing a series of strip-shaped regions 26 which are tilted in such a way that they change the direction of light beams impinging on them **by total reflection**. These optically active structures 26 are not visible in the horizontal sectional view of Fig. 2, but are clearly shown in the in vertical sectional view of Fig. 3.

Obviously, it is **impossible** to use a **non-existing** reflector body or **non-existing** reflecting layer as cooling means for the light emitting diode 14.

Reference numeral 3 in Fig. 8 of Waldmann '171 denotes a reflector which, however, does not have any cooling functions since light source 21 is a fluorescent tube (see column 5, lines 1 to 9) which does not need any cooling.

Chen '174 does not actually disclose the mounting of LEDs having a housing of their own, but of LED chips which Chen calls "LED crystals 15", and which are fixed by a conductive epoxy 18 to bowl-shaped reflector dishes 14 of the printed circuit board base 12. The bowl-shaped attach zone 14 is covered by copper foil 21 which also extends over large flat areas surrounding the reflector dishes 14.

The parts of copper foil 21 which cover the reflector dishes 14 are by far too small to provide for an effective cooling. To the contrary, the cooling is provided by the flat areas of the foil 21 surrounding the reflector dishes 14, the plating through holes 17, and the copper foil 22 disposed on the rear surface of the PCB 12.

Neither the flat areas of copper foil 21, nor the plate through holes 17 nor copper foil 22 on the rear surface act as reflectors.

To summarize: Chen discloses **reflector** areas 14 which do **not** provide any **cooling** function, and, connected therewith, **cooling** means 21, 17 and 22 which do **not** act as **reflectors**.

In spite of the fact that the reflecting areas 14 are in heat-conducting connection with the cooling means 21, 17 and 22, Chen does **not** teach or suggest the use of a reflector arrangement which extends at least on one side of a light guide device in opposite relationship to a light cover, and reflects, towards the light cover, light which is coupled out therefrom in other directions than towards the light cover, and which reflector simultaneously acts as a cooling means for the respective light-emitting diode.

Especially since the "reflector arrangement" of Applicant's claim 1 does not reflect the light directly emitted by the LED, but, rather, re-directs light being coupled out from the light guide device in other directions than towards the light cover, it would **not** (and could **not**) have been obvious for a person skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Schwanz '334, which does **not** disclose any separate reflector at all, with the teachings of Chen which does **not** disclose a light guide from which light is coupled out in the wrong direction, i.e. not towards the light cover.

In view of the above-diagnosed deficiency in the Examiner's basic proposed combination of Schwanz '334, Waldmann '171 and Chen '174, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's proposed additional combinations with Nelson '177 (claims 3 and 4) and Kuenstler '548 also is flawed. More specifically, even if Nelson's chromium-plated plastic body/high mirror finish vapor deposited reflector were combined with the other three references, such a combination would be incapable of rendering obvious the subject matter of each of claims 3 and

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4, and, in any event, would not have produced the subject matter of claims 3 and 4 or subject matter which would have rendered claims 3 and 4 obvious.

Similarly, with respect to claim 5, even assuming, *arguendo*, that Kuenstler teaches "a high-set brake lamp for motor vehicles", such a teaching cannot make up for the above-explained deficiencies in the Schwanz '334/Waldman/Chen combination to render the subject matter of claim 7 obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

In summary, then, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the objections to the disclosure, the claim objections, the obviousness-type double-patenting rejections, and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and to find the application to be in condition for allowance with all of claims 1-7; however, if for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to **call the undersigned attorney** to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

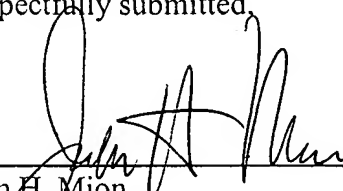
Applicant files concurrently herewith a Petition (with fee) for an Extension of Time of one month, together with the above-noted Terminal Disclaimer and required fee.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to

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Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or § 1.17 necessary to keep this application pending in the Patent and Trademark Office or credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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